

File

December 12, 1984

TO: Coal File, Enforcement and Inspection
FROM: David Lof, Mining Field Specialist *John*
RE: Co-op Mining Company, Bear Creek Canyon Mine, ACT/015/025,
Folder #7, Emery County, Utah

On October 23, 1984 I conducted a partial inspection at the above mentioned mine site. I was accompanied on this inspection by Dave Hooper, Division Hydrologist and Mel Coonrod representing Co-op Mining Company.

Upper Storage Yard

The 30 inch undisturbed bypass culvert under the upper storage yard outlets on the toe of a fill slope and does not have a downspout. There is no erosion at the culvert outlet however there is some question as to what was approved. This question will require further investigation.

The undisturbed diversion ditch which approaches the 30 inch culvert from the east is fairly well maintained however, a small amount of material had sloughed from the highwall into the diversion. I asked Mr. Coonrod to have this material cleaned from the diversion.

Cattle Trail/Road

There is an old cattle trail/road east of the man portal which switch backs up the side of the canyon to the top of the mountain. There is a gate located along this road about 100 feet past the portal which says Scull Valley Cattle Company. It is apparent that some type of tracked vehicle (probably a dozer) had been up the road in the past year. I walked up the road approximately a quarter of a mile and the tracks were still continuing to go up.

Explosives Magazines

There were powder and primer magazines located approximately half way between the man portal and the gate on the cattle road. There were no explosive signs posted. I told Mr. Coonrod that they should check the Industrial Commission regulations regarding explosive storage. He said that the magazines were probably their contractors. I informed him that they were responsible for their contractors.

Portal Pad Access Road

There were no apparent erosion problems on the road surface. There are several cross culverts under the road. Basically the runoff from the road is untreated except where runoff passes through strawbales at the road ditch outlet at the switchback. I suggested to Mr. Coonrod that

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if the intended purpose of the strawbales is to filter the runoff prior to it discharging into Bear Creek, that they should use a loose straw filter or silt fence instead because strawbales act as a check dam rather than a sediment filtering device.

Notice of Violation N84-4-13-3, #2 of 3

The inlet to the culvert under the coal stockpile pad was blocked by soil material. Mr. Coonrod informed me that they had been doing some work in the immediate area the previous week, and that it probably became blocked at that time. Once informed of the blockage, the operator had the culvert inlet cleared within thirty minutes. The amount of material blocking the inlet was no more than several cubic feet of soil. An inspection of the same culvert's outlet which is located in the Bear Creek stream channel, we found that the outlet was almost totally silted in. There was little more than an inch of the top of the culvert showing.

While in the area of the undisturbed diversion inlet we also inspected the undisturbed diversion which conveys undisturbed runoff from the area above the coal stockpile area and shop pad into Bear Creek. That portion of the diversion which conveys the water down the slope from the coal stockpile area to the shop pad was poorly defined at best. Because of the operators failure to maintain these structures, Notice of Violation N84-4-13-3, #2 of 3 was issued. It reads as follows:

Nature of the Violation

Failure to maintain a sediment control measure (diversion) in a manner which prevents additional contributions of suspended silt to streamflow or runoff outside the permit area.

Provision of the Regulations, Act or Permit Violated

UMC 817.43 (c)

UMC 817.45

UCA 4-10-18 (2)(i)(ii)

Portion of the Operation to Which Notice Applies

1. The inlet and outlet of the undisturbed culvert under the coal stockpile pad.
2. The undisturbed diversion behind the shop.

Remedial Action Required

1. Clean the inlet and outlet to the culvert so that undisturbed runoff can flow freely through the culvert.
2. Maintain the diversion.

Time for Abatement

November 8, 1984

The Violation was issued to Mr. Coonrod on October 24, 1984 at his residence.

Notice of Violation N84-4-13-3, #3 of 3

While inspecting the sediment pond dewatering device I found that the dewatering device valve was opened. This would allow the short circuiting of the sediment pond. Because of this NOV N84-4-13-3, #3 of 3 was issued, it reads as follows:

Nature of the Violation

Failure to maintain the sediment pond to prevent short circuiting to the extent possible.

Provisions of the Regulation, Act or Permit Violated

UMC 817.46 (e)

Portion of the Operation to Which Notice Applies

The sediment pond dewatering device valve.

Remedial Action Required

Close the dewatering device valve and make sure that it will remain closed unless the sediment pond is being dewatered in accordance with the applicable regulations.

Time for Abatement

October 24, 1984, 5:00 p.m.

Violation was issued to Mr. Coonrod on October 24, 1984, at his residence.

Because the dewatering device valve was opened the operator would not have been able to contain the 10 year, 24 hour precipitation

event in the sediment pond for a long enough period time of to allow for adequate settling of settleable solids so that they could meet effluent limitations. Any discharge from this sediment pond would go to Bear Creek which is a tributary of Huntington Creek. Water monitoring data for September 1984 indicated a total suspended solids level of 324 mg/l above the mine and 122 mg/l below the mine.

Upon pointing out the problem to Mr. Coonrod he immediately closed the valve. The violation was terminated November 15, 1984 effective October 24, 1984.

Notice of Violation N84-4-13-3, #1 of 3

While inspecting the sediment controls for the shop pad, I found that the berm around the perimeter had several holes in it. The holes in the berm were primarily because of the large rocks which were used in the associated pad and berm and the soil in the berm having settled to fill crevices between these large rocks. In addition the disturbed area runoff from the shop, to the west end of the shop pad flows toward the berm and ponds against the berm. This same berm separates the disturbed area from an undisturbed diversion. Because of the holes in the berm the disturbed area runoff could readily flow into the undisturbed diversion and then into Bear Creek which is a couple of hundred feet away. Because the operator had failed to maintain sediment controls, Notice of Violation N84-4-13-3, #1 of 3 was issued, it reads as follows:

Nature of the Violation

Failure to pass all disturbed area runoff through a sediment pond, series of sediment ponds or treatment facility prior to leaving the permit area.

Failure to maintain sediment control structures to prevent, to the extent possible, additional contributions of sediment to stream flow or runoff outside the permit area.

Provision of the Regulations, Act or Permit Violated

UMC 817.42 (a)(1)
UMC 817.45
UCA 40-10-18 (2)(i)(ii)

Portion of the Operation to Which Notice Applies

The pad area and berm south of the shop.

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Remedial Action Required

- A. Maintain the berm so that water cannot seep through the berm.
- B. Grade the pad so that water does not pond along the berm.
- C. Find the lowest point on the pad along the berm and install a loose straw filter or silt fence to treat runoff from this small area.

Time for Abatement

November 8, 1984

The violation was served to Mr. Coonrod on October 24 1984 at his residence.

Under Ground Water Monitoring Program Drilling

The operator had just completed doing some drilling for the ground water monitoring program just west, southwest of the shop in a previously undisturbed area. There were no problems at the time of the inspection. I asked Mr. Coonrod to make sure that drainage controls in the area involved be properly maintained when the drilling materials are removed from the site and to reseed the small area which had been disturbed.

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cc: Donna Griffin, OSM
Mel Coonrod, Co-op Mining Company
Joe Helfrich, DOGM

Statistics:

Vehicle: EX 49611, 533 miles
Per Diem: 2 persons X 2 days 2.5 hours = \$203.80
Grant: A&E
0052Q-1-5